

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 8-63 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 8-35, 38-43, 45 and 54-61 are presently under examination. Non-elected claims 36-37, 44, 46-53 and 62-63 have been withdrawn by the Examiner from further consideration.

Claim Amendment

In reviewing the claims pending in this application, it was noted that claim 22 contained a typographical error in that the subject claim should depend from claim 21 instead of from claim 1. Claim 22 has, therefore, been amended herein such that it now depends from claim 21. No new matter is added by the amendment.

Restriction of the Claims Under Examination

The Office Action indicates that the claims of the application are subject to a restriction between two separate groups of claims, i.e.,

Group I: claims 1-5, 8-20, 22 and 38-45; and

Group II: claims 21, 23-35 and 54-61,

and that the applicants, in response to this Office Action, are required (i) to elect one of the above claim groups for further prosecution in this application, and (ii) to identify the claims encompassing the elected invention.

In response, applicants elect without traverse the claims of Group II. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that as noted above claim 22 has been amended herein such that it now depends upon claim 21 (contained within Group II). Applicants thus respectfully request that amended claim 22 be included with the Group II claims such that the elected Group should be deemed to include claims 21-35 and 54-61.

Applicants specifically reserve their right to pursue patent protection for any/all of the non-elected claims in a subsequently filed divisional application.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
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MAF:stb

Respectfully submitted,

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